THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 13th August 1954.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Short notice questions.

Retrenchment of workers in the Commonwealth Textile Factory, Kozhikode.

* 1326-A *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the management of the Commonwealth Textile Factory, Kozhikode, have decided to retrench 140 workers from the factory in violation of provisions of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act and Factories Act;

(*b*) if so, whether the Government have made any efforts at conciliation in the matter and with what result?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"(*a*) The management of the Commonwealth Textile Factory, Kozhikode, propose to retrench certain number of workers, but there is no information whether they are proposing to do it in violation of the provisions of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act and Factories Act.

"(*b*) The Labour Officer has already commenced conciliation in the matter and it is pending with him."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN:—"Are the Government aware that the management wanted to retrench the workers in order to cut their wages, refuse bonus to them and to treat them as casual workers so that they might not get any benefit according to the laws prevalent? If so, will the Government be pleased to take action and see that this kind of retrenchment is stopped?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"These complaints are before the Labour Officer who is trying conciliation. The Government will take suitable action on receipt of a report from him."

Accident at the Vincent Industrials, Kozhikode.

* 1326-B *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that five workers of the St. Vincent Industrials, Kozhikode, received severe injuries and burns on 28th July 1954 while on duty;

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(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(*c*) what measures the Factory Inspector has taken for preventing the recurrence of these incidents?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) While the workers were operating the tilting and pouring molten iron from the ladle into the feeder of the mould, they lost their balance and poured the metal over the casting. In their fright they left the ladle to tilt over, allowing the molten metal to run on the ground. The Assistant Manager, who was guiding the casting, immediately ordered the workers to run for safety and while doing so, they tripped over other mounds nearby and got their feet burnt by the molten metal.

" (*c*) The Regional Inspector of Factories, Kozhikode, who inspected the factory and made a detailed inquiry into the accident, has already issued detailed instructions to the management to avoid recurrence of such incidents."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Are the Government aware that, according to the Factories Act, the management will have to supply protective gloves to workers? In this case, the management did not supply them to the workers. That was why they got severe injuries. Will the Government be pleased to note this and ask the management to supply protective gloves to the workers? Will they also take action against the management for this negligence? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government are examining the report of the Factory Inspector. The Regional Inspector of Factories, Kozhikode, has already issued the following orders to the management :—

(*a*) to provide gear arrangement to ladles to give the operators better control over the pouring process;

(*b*) to have all unnecessary wooden and iron frames, rubbish, etc., removed from the vicinity of the moulds before starting casting work on casting days; and

(*c*) to have the chains of the overhead cranes and those by which ladles are supported, to be got examined once in twelve months."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Will the Government be pleased to see that compensation is paid to the workers? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government will see that the workers get whatever compensation they are entitled to."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that the management of the St. Vincent Industrials, Kozhikode, are incessantly violating the rules and regulations under the Trade Union Act on the plea that it is a charitable institution? Have the Government received any representation with regard to the same from any of the M.L.As.? "